



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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- 1. The morale of the Peace Congress delegates is sinking rapidly. This has been demonstrated by the poor attendance at the meetings. Isabelle Blume's speech on 15 December was delivered to a hall two-thirds empty. In view of complaints from the delegates that all speeches are alike, with no concrete solutions being suggested, Blume urged the immediate formation of committees to discuss agenda points. There was consternation among the delegates because the committees had not been chosen by 15 December, the fourth day of the Congress.
- 2. On 15 December, the leaders of the British and French delegations informed the president that their groups might leave early in view of the disappointment caused by the absence of constructive work. Blume tried to excuse the repetitious speeches by describing them as urgently needed eye-witness accounts

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of the real world situation. She also pleaded for better attendance of the meetings. On the preceding day, 14 December, the congress hall had also been two-thirds empty and a painful silence occurred when three speakers failed to answer the call to the rostrum.

- 3. On 13 December, after the parade, a violent discussion took place between members of the Vienna Peace Council and leaders of the Peace Congress because of the small numbers of marchers. An unidentified Vienna Peace Council member called the Prague World Peace Council headquarters trying to explain the poor parade and admitted that the organization had been inefficient.
- 4. Many delegates, particularly from the satellite states, have been buying

 Swiss watches in Vienna. Three stores in Vienna IV, Wiedner Hauptstrasse,

 were sold out the first night of the Congress. On 16 December the delegates

 were instructed not to buy anything since the Peace Congress was not designed
 as a shopping trip.
- 5. Many Peace Congress expenses are financed directly by the Soviet Military Bank in Vienna. An estimate by the Vienna Peace Council of local costs alone amounts to 10,000,000 schillings. This includes 1,500,000 schillings for making a film of the Congress, the same amount for the delegates room and board, over 1,000,000 for telephone and cable expenses, and over 5,000,000 for travel expenses. This does not include amounts paid by the various national peace councils, such as the delegates per diem, which amounts to as much as \$ 20 in the case of the Indian delegation.
- 6. Congress banners were defaced in the Soviet sector during the night of 9 December. The International Union of Socialist Youth mailed and delivered anti-communist leaflets to the delegates at their hotels. The leaflets were hidden inside copies of the Vienna communist paper Der Abend. Another leaflet of unknown origin is circulating among the delegates which attacks the false peace of the Communists.

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